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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : National Phase Entry of PCT/EP2004/003624  
Applicant : Gerhard HAMPRECHT et al  
Filed : Herewith  
TC/A.U. :  
Examiner :

Docket No. : 3165-137  
Customer No. : 6449  
Confirmation No. :

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendments before calculation of the filing fee and examination of the merits.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 11 of this paper.